### **Policy Intervention**

#### $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{v}$

# H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria Executive Director

## Commission on Science & Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS)

### "Climate Justice Diplomacy"

Bism..

Honorable delegates,

Escalating climate crisis has been adversely affecting our planet.

Different regions are experiencing different manifestations of climate change.

From frequent floods of biblical proportions to droughts, forest fires to smog, and from unpredictable weather patterns to mindboggling temperature swings.

The Global South countries, particularly the Indus Basin states, are grappling with the consequences of climate change. The heat impact has been exacerbating the challenges for those 300 million people.

The glaciers are fast melting. In the long run, the security risks intrinsically linked to the stress on resources may lead to conflicts between states.

It warrants urgent action.

The situation should provide food for thought to the world leaders, national policy makers, and scientists.

We need to sincerely identify those activities that constantly cause damage to the environment but remain evasive. Militaries contribute 5.5% to GHGs emissions.

Unfortunately, they were exempted for accountability from Kyoto and Paris agreements.

While industrial activities have degraded environment over decades, wars destroy environment instantly on much larger scale.

An impact assessment of the wars and military exercises need to be carried out to make the countries concerned responsible for the damage caused.

How effectively COP process has helped in last 28 years in compensating and enabling the countries least responsible for the environmental damage, needs a critical view.

However, a measure of efforts by developing states is also important.

COP 28 commitment has to be steadfast, inclusive and tangible in action.

The establishment of 'Loss and Damage Fund' on Dayl is commendable. However, the proof is in the pudding.

Technologically advanced and economically powerful nations need to share greater responsibility on the basis of morality.

Half-hearted measures are not tenable. Leveraging our collective strength under a new era of climate diplomacy is a must, to ensure a shared promising future, especially for those in the Global South.

### Thank you!